

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A belt comprising:
an arrangement that is attached to a portion of the belt, wherein
the belt has a Young's modulus and the arrangement has a Young's modulus that is
smaller than the Young's modulus of the belt, and
the arrangement is a scale that is used to detect an amount of movement of the belt.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): ~~The belt according to claim 1, wherein~~ A belt
comprising:
an arrangement that is attached to a portion of the belt, wherein
the belt has a Young's modulus and the arrangement has a Young's modulus that is
smaller than the Young's modulus of the belt, and
the arrangement is a protection seal that protects an edge of the belt from wearing,
said protection seal having a Young's modulus in the range of 300 megapascals to 800
megapascals.

Claim 3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The belt according the claim ~~[[3]]~~ 1, wherein the scale
has a width and a length and includes a reflecting part and a non-reflecting part repeatedly
disposed along the length of the scale at a predetermined interval.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The belt according the claim ~~[[3]]~~ 1, wherein the scale
has a width and a length and includes a magnetic part and a non-magnetic part repeatedly

disposed along the length of the scale at a predetermined interval.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): ~~The belt according to claim 1, wherein~~ A belt comprising:

an arrangement that is attached to a portion of the belt, wherein
the belt has a Young's modulus and the arrangement has a Young's modulus that is
smaller than the Young's modulus of the belt, and

the Young's modulus of the belt satisfies a relation:

$$T/ExL\alpha \leq 0.03 \text{ [millimeter]}$$

where, T is a tension applied to the belt in [N/mm²], E is the Young's modulus of the belt in [megapascals], L is a maximum image length in [millimeter], and α is a percentage fluctuation in the Young's modulus.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): An image forming apparatus comprising:
means for forming an image;
a rotating belt for forming the image, the rotating belt having a Young's modulus;
an arrangement that is attached to a portion along the rotating belt, the arrangement having a Young's modulus that is smaller than the Young's modulus of the belt;
a driving unit that drives the rotating belt;
a reading unit that reads the scale; and
a control unit that controls the driving unit based on a result of reading of the scale by the reading unit.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): ~~The belt according to claim 1,~~ A belt comprising:
an arrangement that is attached to a portion of the belt, wherein

the belt has a Young's modulus and the arrangement has a Young's modulus that is smaller than the Young's modulus of the belt, and

~~wherein~~ the arrangement is a stopper, which prevents the belt from biasing toward an edge side at the time of being driven.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus comprising:
means for forming an image;
means for driving a rotating belt for conveying a medium on which an image is directly transferred, the rotating belt having a Young's modulus; and
an arrangement that is attached to a portion-along the rotating belt, the arrangement having a Young's modulus that is smaller than the Young's modulus of the rotating belt,
wherein

the arrangement is a scale that is used to detect an amount of movement of the rotating belt.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): ~~The image forming apparatus according to claim 9,~~
An image forming apparatus comprising:
means for forming an image;
means for driving a rotating belt for conveying a medium on which an image is directly transferred, the rotating belt having a Young's modulus; and
an arrangement that is attached to a portion-along the rotating belt, the arrangement having a Young's modulus that is smaller than the Young's modulus of the rotating belt,
wherein the arrangement is a protection seal that protects an edge of the rotating belt from wearing, said protection seal having a Young's modulus in the range of 300 megapascals to 800 megapascals.

Claim 11 (Canceled).

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim [[11]] 9, wherein the scale has a width and a length and includes a reflecting part and a non-reflecting part repeatedly disposed along the length of the scale at a predetermined interval.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim [[11]] 9, wherein the scale has a width and a length and includes a magnetic part and a non-magnetic part repeatedly disposed along the length of the scale at a predetermined interval.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): ~~The image forming apparatus according to claim 9,~~
An image forming apparatus comprising:
means for forming an image;
means for driving a rotating belt for conveying a medium on which an image is
directly transferred, the rotating belt having a Young's modulus; and
an arrangement that is attached to a portion-along the rotating belt, the arrangement
having a Young's modulus that is smaller than the Young's modulus of the rotating belt,
wherein the Young's modulus of the rotating belt satisfies a relation:

$$T/ExL\alpha \leq 0.03 \text{ [millimeter]}$$

where, T is a tension applied to the rotating belt in [N/mm²], E is the Young's modulus of the rotating belt in [megapascals], L is a maximum image length in [millimeter], and α is a percentage fluctuation in the Young's modulus.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim

[[11]] 9, further comprising:

a driving unit that drives the rotating belt;
a reading unit that reads the scale; and
a timing control unit that controls a start timing of an image forming operation based on a result of reading of the reading unit.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): ~~The image forming apparatus according to claim 9,~~

An image forming apparatus comprising:

means for forming an image;

means for driving a rotating belt for conveying a medium on which an image is directly transferred, the rotating belt having a Young's modulus; and

an arrangement that is attached to a portion-along the rotating belt, the arrangement having a Young's modulus that is smaller than the Young's modulus of the rotating belt,

wherein the arrangement is a stopper, which prevents the rotating belt from biasing toward an edge side at the time of being driven.